

Message Text

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15

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 MMS-03

DRC-01 /152 W

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R 251240Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 571

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0531

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE, MARR, IO

SUBJ: CEYLONese REACTION TO DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION PLANS

REF COLOMBO 504, STATE 36954

1. DEPMIN OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LAKSHMAN JAYAKODY, INFORMALLY RAISED QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA WITH AMB AT SOCIAL OCCASION ON 22 FEB. JAYAKODY SAID GSL HAS SOUGHT TO HANDLE ISSUE CAREFULLY AND, AS HE HAD NOTED AT 19 FEB PRESS CONFERENCE, GSL DID NOT WISH TO MAKE POLITICAL CAPITAL OUT OF DIEGO GARCIA. JAYAKODY POINTED OUT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD REACTED MUCH MORE MODERATELY THAN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

2. JAYAKODY ALSO TOLD AMB THAT CEYLONese HAD ASKED DR. FRANK BARNABY, CONSULATANT TO UN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL (COLOMBO 504), TO SUPPLY GSL WITH BREAKDOWN OF US, SOVIET, AND BRITISH MILITARY STRENGTH IN AREA. ACCORDING TO JAYAKODY, BARNABY HAS AGREED TO DO THIS. AMB SAID HE WOULD SUPPLY JAYAKODY WITH INFO ON US AND SOVIET PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. (WE PLAN TO SEND HIM INFO CONTAINED IN STATE CONFIDENTIAL

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31796 AS WELL AS ZURHELLEN STATEMENT TO HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE.

3. AMB TOLD JAYAKODY HE HAD EXPRESSED TO PM BANDARANAIKE OUR APPRECIATION FOR CARE AND RESTRAINT WHICH GSL HAD EXERCISED IN HANDLING THIS SENSITIVE MATTER AND WANTED JAYAKODY TO KNOW OF OUR APPRECIATION ALSO. IN RESPONSE TO JAYAKODY'S QUESTION AS TO WHEN THEN COULD EXPECT REPLY TO PM'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT NIXON REGARDING DIEGO GARCIA, AMB SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHEN REPLY WOULD BE SENT BUT ASSUMED IT WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON.

4. COMMENT: UK HIGH COMMISSION TELLS US THAT PM HEATH REPLIED TO MRS. B'S LETTER TO HIM ON 18 FEB. HOPE WE CAN RECEIVE PRESIDENT NIXON'S REPLY SOON IN VIEW OF JAYAKODY'S INQUIRY.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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